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Ashton-in-Makerfield

Urban District Council

Fortieth Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

ROCK HOUSE,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, 1915.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting to you my FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT on the health and mortality of your district, and adhering to the formulation of such report as set forth by the Local Government Board, it is difficult to avoid repeating myself regarding the

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Boundaries.—South and south-west by Haydock Urban District; north-west by Billinge Urban District; north by Pemberton (now part of Wigan Borough); and east by Abram and Golborne Urban Districts. Area 6,251 acres. Contours on Ordnance

data range from 350 down to 100 feet. The major portion is on the coal measures ; while another lies on the new red sandstone. Subsidence through mining have for years been of grave consequence in dealing with the several kinds of pipe service throughout the area ; and evidently increase rapidly, as indicated by the cracking and splitting of the newest properties ; and also by extensive changes which lead to flooding of land and roadways.

I might add in this connection that our main roadways now cannot compare with what they were a few years ago—as can easily be understood. A further trouble obtains in that the extraordinary heavy traffic by mechanical power (night and day) materially affects their surface condition.

Industries—is mostly confined to that of mining, not only engaging the bulk of our own workers, but embraces a considerable number from the adjoining townships, etc. Lock and hinge making may possibly claim next position for employment ; and we have also some cotton spinning engaging an appreciable share of female workers. It should be said that a section of our female population work at Golborne and Wigan in the cotton factories.

Population, as taken at census of 1911, was 21,543 ; and on 1st July, 1914, was estimated at 22,687. The number of houses in 1913 were 4,088, and certificates for occupation have been granted for other 34 during the past year, so that with 4,122 habitations we have an average of 5·5 persons per house on a population of 22,884 (estimated to 1st January, 1915). Persons per acre 3·66. No housing accommodation has been provided by the Council, though the matter has been mooted. This question opens out many difficulties, both as to site, prices, and other important aspects.

Poor Law Medical Relief and Hospital Accommodation.— No change herein. We have no Sanatorium, but a few cases of Tuberculosis have been sent for isolation through the instrumentality of the Wigan Tuberculosis Dispensary. During the past year seven cases of Tuberculosis were under sanatorium treatment : two at Liverpool, two Meathop, two Bull Hill, and one Wigan Workhouse. There were 11 cases notified from Wigan Infirmary, of which 10 were non-pulmonary, and most probably all were out-patients.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply is from two sources, largely from Rivington, and that from your own works at North Ashton ; both are of good quality. The service is constant and subject to intermission only through accidents caused by subsidences. The consumption registers out to a little over 10 gallons per head per day.

Many heavy leakages happened during the year through dislocations and breakages, causing serious loss of water.

Forewarned of " Alien " damage on the break out of the war, eight scouts were engaged jointly with the police to act as sentries by the reservoirs and works. This protection was ended first week in February.

Drainage and Sewage.—Continuous trouble arises through dislocations caused by subsidences, and it has been found necessary in various parts to relay from 1,500 to 1,600 yards of trunk sewers. From the same cause it has been found necessary to erect a pumping station to lift the sewage to a higher level for treatment ; dealing with approximately one-third of the population.

New outfall works, which treats with the major area of the township, are now complete and have been in operation over two months.

In September I examined the effluents from the several disposal plants, and found that from Downall Green free from smell and deposit—a little cloudy ; Garswood, a faint deposit—little cloudy and slight smell ; Bryn Gates, yellowish in colour, very small sediment, no smell ; Edge Green, clear, little or no sediment, and absolutely void of smell. All showed good chemical reaction.

Closet Accommodation.—For by far the larger portion this is on the pail system, and which number 3,754. Water closets number 477 as against 460 last year, and the number of waste-water closets remains the same, viz., 25. There have been no conversions one way or the other, and in no instance of conversion does the Authority contribute towards the cost.

Scavenging.—Just as with the closet pails, the cost of this is undertaken by the Council and the refuse disposed of at tipping places. Ashpits number well on for 2,000, and there are 100 or more portable covered receptacles plus perhaps a score of ashtubs; monthly removal of the former and weekly for the portable portion.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.—General systematic inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector, with whom I work in reporting upon insanitary conditions; and his report will show the number and character of nuisances observed and noted. In special instances the Sanitary Committee join us in inspecting properties. It appears to me strongly that we do not receive that prompt attention to remedy from the owners as the township is entitled to. A very large percentage of cottage property, (internally and externally) besides unsatisfactory conditions of yard surfaces, are greatly in need of attention; and it is quite evident more stringency and pressure must be brought to bear that house comfort and cleanliness may be obtained.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD,
February 9th, 1915.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

SIR,

Below is a Summary of the Nuisances dealt with during the year 1914, which are as follows:—

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Stopped drains and gullies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Foul closets and ashpits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Broken plaster and walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93 |
| Defective roofs and spouts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 72 |
| Houses required cleansing | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 103 |
| Damp walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| Defective windows and doors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 |
| ,, wastepipes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| ,, paving in yards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 33 |
| ,, paving round gullies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32 |

The cowsheds and dairies have been inspected, and with few exceptions, found clean. The cowsheds number 45, which are good buildings, well drained, lighted and ventilated. Thirteen required limewashing and cleansing, and three had stopped drains.

There are two dairies and two milkshops which were found clean; also the receptacles and utensils connected therewith.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected and found clean. There are only three being used at the present time.

DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Number of notices served 265
 Nuisances remedied 632
 Number of legal proceedings taken, and result... ... Nil.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION OF THE DISTRICT.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of privy middens | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |
| ,, pail closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3754 |
| Fresh-water closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 477 |
| Waste-water closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Movable ashbins | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 105 |
| Number of pail closets converted to W.C.'s | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil. |

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The one cellar workshop (clogging, etc.) is in a satisfactory condition, and has ample air space, etc.

No underground bakehouses. No underground sleeping rooms, nor any offensive processes of trade.

We have no common lodging-houses, but overcrowding is not infrequently found ; and in cases of clearing up, those leaving as a rule make to other relatives or friends for accommodation, and so this nuisance is of a movable character.

Schools.—I believe the good sanitary condition of these (about 11 in number) is still maintained.

The medical inspection is administered from Preston, and at the beginning of February weekly returns from the School Attendance Officer was introduced, forming a tabulated statement of the character of sickness amongst scholars absented thereby. Recognising the value of this as a means of information generally of sickness prevailing, I consulted Miss Haworth (the Lady Health Visitor) who kindly fell in with my views on its relationship to Public Health, and she undertook and has fully carried out a large amount of visiting—making enquiries and reporting details to me week by week. My directions were practically confined to illness of infective or contagious type, indicated in the first 10 columns on the subjoined tables, which tables I have drawn up.

Table A shows monthly incident of absentees and nature of illness, while Table B shows schools concerned.

A.—RETURN OF SICKNESS IN SCHOOLS.

Year ending December, 1914.

NUMBER OF NEW CASES.

| Period of Year. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. | Enteric Fever. | Measles. | Whoop. Cough. | Chicken Pox. | Mumps. | Ring-worm. | Oph-thalmia. | Sore Throat. | Bron-chitis and Pneu-monia. | Colds. | Sore Heads. | Other Diseases. | Total. | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----|-----|
| February | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 25 | 10 | 78 | 12 | 263 | 409 | | |
| March | 2 | — | — | — | — | 12 | 1 | — | — | 5 | 5 | 46 | 1. | 214 | 286 | | |
| April | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 1 | — | 2 | 2 | 20 | 5 | 149 | 190 | |
| May | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 8 | 10 | 2 | — | 19 | 6 | 37 | 6 | 316 | 409 |
| June | 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 54 | 5 | — | 18 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 183 | 277 | |
| July | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 55 | — | — | 11 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 172 | 251 | |
| August | 5 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | 6 | 4 | — | 6 | — | — | 3 | 141 | 168 | |
| September | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 32 | 7 | — | 11 | 3 | 12 | 11 | 202 | 288 | |
| October | 14 | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | 48 | 6 | — | 17 | 1 | 15 | 8 | 163 | 275 |
| November.... | 12 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 5 | 5 | 50 | 6 | — | 5 | 1 | 54 | 8 | 203 | 351 | |
| December ... | 11 | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 15 | 30 | 2 | — | 11 | 4 | 71 | 2 | 133 | 282 | | |
| Totals ... | 73 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 50 | 293 | 35 | 2 | 130 | 36 | 345 | 60 | 2139 | 3186 | | |

B.—RETURN OF SICKNESS IN SCHOOLS.

Year ending December, 1914

NUMBER OF NEW CASES.

| Period of Year. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria. | Enteric fever. | Measles. | Whoop. | Chicken Pox. | Mumps. | Ring-worm. | Oph-thalmia. | Sore Throat. | Bron-chitis and Pneu-monia. | Colds. | Sore Heads. | Other Diseases. | Total. | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|----------|--------|--------------|--------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Emmanuel | 19 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | 16 | 64 | 13 | 1 | 22 | 4 | 64 | 11 | 186 | 504 | |
| Ashton R.C.... | 7 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 70 | 9 | — | 13 | 8 | 46 | 15 | 298 | 468 | |
| Rector C.E. . | 19 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 9 | 36 | 3 | — | 30 | 4 | 54 | 6 | 240 | 403 |
| St. Peter's | 7 | — | — | 1 | — | 12 | 29 | — | — | 8 | 7 | 40 | 5 | 240 | 349 | |
| St. Thomas' ... | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | 3 | 14 | 1 | — | 14 | 5 | 31 | 6 | 239 | 322 | |
| Stubshaw C'ssr | 5 | — | — | — | 2 | 3 | 47 | 3 | 1 | 15 | 5 | 33 | 10 | 273 | 297 | |
| P. Lane R.C.... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 53 | 61 | |
| P. Lane U. | 2 | — | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 19 | 1 | 123 | 152 | |
| D. Green R.C. . | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — | — | 7 | 1 | 19 | — | 138 | 169 |
| Garswood C.E. | 9 | — | — | — | 2 | — | 26 | — | — | 11 | — | 16 | 3 | 96 | 163 | |
| Bryn Gates C. | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 6 | 4 | — | 7 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 153 | 197 | |
| Totals | 73 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 13 | 50 | 293 | 35 | 2 | 130 | 36 | 345 | 60 | 2139 | 3186 | |

Most of the schools have been sprayed with Formalin at convenient times. Dr. Barker (one of the School Medical Officers) was over on two occasions consulting me as to closure, or not ; but we agreed that nothing could be gained by such step.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—The bulk of this is by the farmers, and a proportion imported and retailed by dealers. A small number of householders use the tinned or condensed form. There has been no occasion to connect any infectious illness as traceable to this medium.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are under regulations of the Local Government Board. The 45 cowkeepers and their cowsheds are each inspected annually. The cubic space required is 800 cubic feet for those "kept up"—but cows are mostly out grazing.

The three registered milkshops were inspected and found to be kept clean. No action has been taken regarding Tuberculous milk.

The Bakehouses number 25 and have been inspected—most of them by myself—and found generally clean and in good order. Small items of repairs found necessary are attended to when pointed out.

Slaughter-houses.—The three private ones (at present in use) are inspected in months of March and September, and there has been no ground for complaint. A large proportion of foreign meat is consumed, being brought into the district ready dressed, etc. There is no public abattoir.

Meat and, in fact, all sorts of "foodstuffs" are for sale in the Market Place on Saturdays, and the Sanitary Inspector and myself pay promiscuous visits but have had no occasion to take any action. I had once to call in your Veterinary Surgeon to examine the carcase of a pig but no action was found necessary.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—No action hereunder has been taken by your Authority ; nor under Milk and Cream Regulations of 1912.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING INSPECTIONS.

Of the 462 houses inspected :—

4 were 2 roomed houses with a population of 3·75 per house,

| | | | | | | |
|-------|----|---|-------|---|------|---|
| 222 | " | 4 | " | " | 4·73 | " |
| 196 | " | 5 | " | " | 5·43 | " |
| 31 | " | 6 | " | " | 4·55 | " |
| 6 | " | 7 | " | " | 7·66 | " |
| 2 | " | 8 | " | " | 7 | " |
| I was | II | " | house | " | 7 | " |

and the following defects were found at time of inspection :—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Broken walls and plaster | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 63 |
| Houses required cleansing | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Pail doors off | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Unpaved yards | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Damp walls | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Defective wastepipes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| ,, slopstones | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| ,, fireplaces | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| ,, roofs and spouts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37 |
| ,, floors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19 |
| ,, doors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| ,, windows | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 |
| ,, paving round gullies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

Particulars of Action taken by the Council under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 (Article V.) bearing on the Public Health.

Action taken in 1914 :—

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 462 |
| Number of dwelling-houses considered unfit for habitation | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders | 5 |
| Number of Closing Orders made | Nil. |
| Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders... ... | 2 |
| Number of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders | 1 |
| Number of dwelling-houses closed by owners | 3 |
| ,, ,, demolished | 12 |

General character of defects found to exist :—Dilapidated walls and plaster.

Housing.—There is a general deficiency throughout the district and the question has been up for consideration two or three times (see note under paragraph *re* population). How far this question will be affected by the end of the war cannot be estimated.

There has been no new houses built by and at the cost of the Council. Thirty-four certificates of fitness for occupation have been granted for those built by private enterprise.

A large number of houses are in need of internal repair, and require regular attention. Owners do not seem to interest themselves sufficiently in this connection, and timely attention would prevent much, and rapidly increasing dilapidation. On the other hand, there is marked indifference observed in the occupiers as to carefulness or otherwise in their dwelling-houses.

This subject is largely referred to in detail in a special report recently received from the County Health Officer, and which report is to be specially considered seriatim on the different matters mentioned.

In my last report (page 10) is a list of houses inspected and reported upon by me during the year, and many of these remain in *statu quo*. No doubt these will come up again for attention when the County Health Officer's report is considered. I am of opinion that matters of this nature should be followed up very closely and reasons put forth for postponement kept regularly in sight. For instance, there are two or three cases where time has elapsed through waiting plans and other details, promises that the matter is in hand, etc., etc., and yet we get little advancement in the condition of things.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INSPECTIONS.

Inspections, Written Notices, Prosecutions.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Factories | 21 | Nil. | Nil. |
| Workshops | 78 | Nil. | Nil. |
| Workplaces | 39 | Nil. | Nil. |
| Total | 138 | Nil. | Nil. |

DEFECTS FOUND.

| | <i>Found.</i> | <i>Remedied.</i> |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Want of cleanliness | 4 | 4 |
| Other nuisances | 2 | 2 |
| Total | 6 | 6 |

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Dressmakers, Milliners, Tailors, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Lock and Hinge Manufacturers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Joiners, Builders, Painters, and Plumbers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Bakers and Confectioners | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Boot, Shoe and Clog Manufacturers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Stocking Knitters | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Mineral Water Manufacturers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Shoeing Smiths | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Motor and Cycle Repairers | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Laundries | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | II |

Total number of workshops on register... 138

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—

| | |
|---|----------|
| Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshops Act | 6 |
| Action taken on matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, yet not under the Factory and Workshops Act :— | |
| Notified by H.M. Inspector | 0 |
| Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector... ... | 0 |
| Total | 6 |

C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Staff.—One Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Groundsman at the Hospital does the stoving of houses and is in charge of removal to and from of all articles and things to be disinfected from houses. Last year I expressed an opinion that the question of assistance should be considered. The advent of the war in August brought about a change—Mr. Gamble leaving at end of September to join Territorial Forces and Mr. Whitter appointed as Acting-Sanitary Inspector. Since his appointment he has received his certificate by examination, and I daresay the question of a permanent fixture will be entertained at an early date.

Hospital Accommodation is ample and kept in good order. There were 18 cases of Enteric (three deaths), 19 of Diphtheria (two deaths), and 119 Scarlets (four deaths) treated therein during last year. As regards Small-pox, we have room for eight cases at Edge Green Hospital. From time to time through subsidences and wilful damage (there being no resident caretaker and the place isolated) the Council is put to a little expense in maintaining same. It has received attention last year, and can be made ready for use in a few hours should occasion arise.

Administration of Local Acts.—The following have been adopted by the Council :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890.

 " " 1907.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Bye-laws and Regulations are in force regarding slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, keeping of animals, houses let-in-lodgings.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.—This resolves itself simply in sending up specimens to the Royal Institute of Public Health, London.

D.—CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

On receipt of notification the Sanitary Inspector proceeds to enquiry—and, in fact, in very many instances the patient has been removed to Hospital before actual receipt of notification.

Indiscriminate visiting, unrecognised cases and school infection, to some extent, are without a doubt factors in the spread of infectious disease. No special action has been taken to discover "contact" Diphtheria cases, or "carriers." There has been two or three cases of very doubtful "return" after discharge from Hospital.

Seventeen vials of Anti-Diphtheria Serum was supplied to practitioners during the year, making just 100 vials of 2,000 units each being supplied since the arrangement under Anti-Toxin Order of 1910.

E.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

On receipt of notification the Sanitary Inspector visits and leaves instructional cards as to points to be observed by patient and relatives. Prepared soft-paper handkerchiefs are being used in place of the cups; such being easily burned away, and obviates the spilling from cups. Stoving is resorted to as required. At the week-end your Medical Officer of Health makes a weekly return to Preston, and this puts the case in touch with the County Council and the Tuberculosis Committee and officials at Wigan. Following up the Tuberculosis Medical Officer's work the Tuberculosis Inspector reports here as to the condition of houses and surroundings concerned.

The last numbered 71, and the number of houses reported as requiring attention was 37. The general defects found to exist consist of broken plaster, fast windows, damp walls, etc., etc., which receive attention in the usual way.

F.—INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

Supplementary Table III. shows the incidence of mortality as to all diseases in the respective Wards; East Ward being still conspicuous, and from which (as referred to last year) we generally

find the greatest proportion of population ratio. There has been no excessive prevalence of diseases mentioned under this heading—as Rickets, Acute Rheumatism, food poisoning, or specific disease.

SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR.

Small-pox.—We have had another year of freedom from this. The material (unvaccinated subjects) still increases through exemptions; the percentage of the unprotected to the number of births showing a steady rise annually. By the Hospital at Edge Green we are prepared to isolate at once in the case of its introduction.

Enteric Fever.—Twenty cases notified concerning 17 houses; 18 were sent to Hospital—equal to 90 per cent. Their incidence as to time and locality will be gathered from the list below. In one instance the patient had only arrived (ill) two days before from Blackpool; another from Golborne took ill three days later; and a third was a patient in Wigan Infirmary, notified from there.

In two instances only was any note as regarded insanitary surroundings (common unpaved yard, defective pantry roof). We had four deaths, which is rather a heavy case mortality. One was notified as Diphtheria on April 24th and sent to Hospital and succumbed on the 29th; certified as Diphtheria and Enteric, to which latter I classed it.

In May a fatal case in Flora Street, three days after notification; another in Hospital nine days after admission from same house (51, North Street) as that referred to in April. The fourth (from Downall Green Road) died eleven days after admission.

Dates and Localities of Cases :—

- Jany. 5th.—9, Adamson Street.
- „ 22nd.—12, Third Street.
- „ 31st.—9, Adamson Street.
- „ 31st.—9, Adamson Street.
- April 8th.—4, Druid Street.
- May 1st.—8, Flora Street.
- „ 7th.—51, North Street.
- „ 29th.—2, Skelton Street.

- *June 2nd.—375, Bolton Road.
- „ 19th.—16, Downall Green Road.
- „ 20th.—12, Bryn Street.
- July 1st.—375, Bolton Road.
- „ 8th.—26, Bryn Street.
- Aug. 11th.—265, Bolton Road.
- „ 17th.—618, Bolton Road.
- Sept. 28th.—74, Bryn Street.
- „ 28th.—33, Rectory Road.
- „ 28th.—168, Bolton Road.
- Oct. 1st.—11, Lily Street.
- Nov. 27th.—88, Old Road.

*The immediate isolation of first case did not prove effective here as regards the development of secondary ones. Ninety per cent. were isolated. The County Health Officer, in his special report just recently to hand, suggests that in the case of fever, treated at home where pail closets exist, a special pail should be provided painted red as to be conspicuous. This report will shortly be under special consideration.

Scarlet Fever.—We experienced another year of general prevalence, and the subjoined list will show monthly incidence, etc.; also that practically the whole area of the township was affected. Table II. indicates the greatest incidence to have been in West Ward. No doubt personal infection, indiscriminate visiting, non-recognised cases (in peeling stage and going about) are great factors in spread. School infection in all probability has a share in spreading it.

Notifications (incidence as to time and locality) :—

- Jany. 5th.—297, Bryn Road.
- „ 8th.—213, Wigan Road.
- „ 9th.—344, Bolton Road.
- „ 10th.—11, Mill Street.
- „ 22nd.—Bryn Hall.
- „ 26th.—236, Old Rood.
- Feby. 5th.—105, Bryn Road South.
- „ 8th.—18, Mill Street.
- „ 18th.—386, Wigan Road.
- „ 21st.—19, Victoria Road.

Feb. 22nd.—223, Wigan Road.*
 ,, 27th.—334, Wigan Road.*
 Mar. 8th.—25, Bolton Road.
 ,, 12th.—376, Bolton Road.
 ,, 29th.—133, Old Road.
 ,, 31st.—570, Bryn Road.

April 2nd.—2, "B" Court, Heath Road.
 ,, 9th.—106, Station Road.
 ,, 10th.—77, School Lane.
 ,, 12th.—456, Bolton Road.
 ,, 13th.—100, Old Road.
 ,, 16th.—123, Rectory Road.
 ,, 18th.—12, Hilton Street.
 ,, 26th.—32, Bolton Road.
 ,, 30th.—154, Old Road.

May 3rd.—60, Bryn Street.
 ,, 5th.—79, Station Road.
 ,, 14th.—383, Wigan Road.
 ,, 15th.—193, Downall Green Road.
 ,, 23rd.—49, Warrington Road.

June 4th.—211, Bolton Road.*
 ,, 6th.—80, Old Road.
 ,, 13th.—212, Bolton Road.
 ,, 24th.—26, Low Bank Road.

July 3rd.—2, Orchard Street.
 ,, 4th.—202, Gibbon's Lane.*
 ,, 6th.—202, Gibbon's Lane.*
 ,, 7th.—559, Bryn Gates.
 ,, 10th.—86, Old Road.*
 ,, 12th.—86, Old Road.*
 ,, 13th.—202, Gibbon's Lane.*
 ,, 18th.—579, Wigan Road.
 ,, 20th.—32, Spindle Hillock.
 ,, 22nd.—211, Bolton Road.*
 ,, 29th.—221, Bolton Road.
 ,, 29th.—109, North Street.

Aug. 4th.—13, Lily Street.
 ,, 8th.—224, Downall Green Road.
 ,, 10th.—343, Bolton Road.

Aug. 12th.—15, Lily Street.*
 „ 13th.—5, Bolton Road.
 „ 15th.—465, Bryn Road.
 „ 17th.—30, Whitledge.*
 „ 26th.—Carr Mill Cottage.
 „ 27th.—373, Bryn Road.
 „ 27th.—218, Liverpool Road.
 „ 29th.—11, "C" Court, Warrington Road.*
 „ 29th.—11, "C" Court, Warrington Road.*
 „ 31st.—57, Station Road.
 „ 31st.—268, Garswood Road.

Sept. 2nd.—89, School Lane.
 „ 3rd.—463, Bryn Road.*
 „ 3rd.—463, Bryn Road.*
 „ 3rd.—364, Garswood Road.
 „ 4th.—559, Wigan Road.
 „ 7th.—211, Heath Road.
 „ 9th.—560, Bryn Road.
 „ 14th.—68, Station Road.
 „ 14th.—241, Bryn Road.
 „ 23rd.—18, Rectory Road.
 „ 27th.—15, Lily Street.

Oct. 1st.—99, Downall Green Road.
 „ 1st.—57, Station Road.
 „ 2nd.—99, Downall Green Road.
 „ 2nd.—353, Garswood Road.
 „ 4th.—22, Old Road.
 „ 6th.—424, Downall Green Road.*
 „ 5th.—520, Garswood Road.
 „ 7th.—73, Station Road.
 „ 9th.—30, Whitledge.*
 „ 13th.—426, Downall Green Road.
 „ 15th.—85, Rectory Road.
 „ 16th.—420, Downall Green Road.
 „ 16th.—146, Billinge Road.
 „ 18th.—1, Brockstedes.
 „ 18th.—1, Booth's Brow.
 „ 22nd.—3, Blue Bell Cottages.
 „ 22nd.—2, Rectory Cottages.

Oct. 23rd.—264, Manor View.
 ,, 23rd.—424, Downall Green Road.*
 ,, 25th.—32, Rectory Road.
 ,, 25th.—275, Bolton Road.
 ,, 25th.—213, Heath Road.
 ,, 27th.—1, Blue Bell Cottages.

Nov. 1st.—1, Blue Bell Cottages.
 ,, 2nd.—2, Blue Bell Cottages.
 ,, 4th.—11, "C" Court, Warrington Road.*
 ,, 4th.—11, "C" Court, Warrington Road.*
 ,, 7th.—559, Wigan Road.
 ,, 8th.—4, Mount Pleasant.
 ,, 9th.—17, Brockstedes.
 ,, 10th.—232, Downall Green Road.*
 ,, 12th.—563, Garswood Road.
 ,, 14th.—232, Downall Green Road.*
 ,, 15th.—33, Rectory Road.
 ,, 17th.—51, School Lane.
 ,, 17th.—422, Downall Green Road.
 .. 17th.—609, Eaton Cottages.
 .. 19th.—90, Low Bank Road.
 .. 20th.—254, Bryn Road.
 .. 20th.—57, Osborne Road.
 .. 20th.—96, Bolton Road.
 .. 22nd.—548, Bryn Road.
 .. 24th.—7, Reservoir Street.
 .. 28th.—258, Wigan Road.
 .. 28th.—18, Station Road.
 .. 29th.—258, Wigan Road.
 .. 29th.—329, Bryn Road.
 .. 30th.—64, Spindle Hillock.

Dec. 2nd.—15, Lily Street.*
 .. 3rd.—106, Bolton Road.
 .. 4th.—7, Reservoir Street.
 .. 4th.—191, Bolton Road.
 .. 7th.—228, Downall Green Road.
 .. 7th.—107, Bryn Road South.
 .. 9th.—The Lodge, Ashton Cross.
 .. 9th.—275, Bolton Road.*

Dec. 10th.—30, Wigan Road.
 ,, 11th.—548, Bryn Road.
 ,, 12th.—34, Morden Avenue.
 ,, 12th.—16, Morden Avenue.
 ,, 12th.—99, Downall Green Road.*
 ,, 12th.—99, Downall Green Road.*
 ,, 12th.—45, Nicol Road.
 ,, 14th.—27, Low Bank Road.
 ,, 17th.—25, Low Bank Road.
 ,, 17th.—275, Bolton Road.*
 ,, 19th.—135, Princess Road.
 ,, 22nd.—107, Bolton Road.
 ,, 22nd.—90, Low Bank Road.
 ,, 22nd.—174, Bolton Road.
 ,, 23rd.—54, Low Bank Road.
 ,, 26th.—200, Downall Green Road.
 ,, 26th.—3, Rectory Cottages.
 ,, 27th.—274, Old Road.
 ,, 27th.—5, Church Street, Downall Green.
 ,, 29th.—274, Old Road.*
 ,, 29th.—274, Old Road.*

*Houses where more than one case occurred.

In comparing a chart, in connection with a special report I made four years ago, I find the mean annual notifications for the four five-yearly periods up to 1909 to be approximately as follows:—92, 67, 160, 109, or a mean of 107; while that for the past quinquennium is 120. Practically 80 per cent. of the cases were isolated in Hospital where we had four fatalities and one death at patient's home, or $3\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. per case.

A feature noticed in Hospital, in connection with this illness, was the frequency of fissured sores about the angles of the mouth and nose—and another proportion of discharging ears. Cases of "bad throats" were less conspicuous than usual.

Diphtheria.—We had eight more cases than in 1913, and seven more than in 1912. Almost 60 per cent. were sent to Hospital, and although two deaths took place in the institution (bad on admission) the bulk of the cases were usually mild and easily yielded to serum treatment.

The following list shows incidence as to time and localities throughout the year:—

- Jany 8th.—495, Wigan Road.
- „ 8 h.—5, First Street, Bryn Gates.
- „ 17th.—54, Rectory Road.
- Feby. 6th.—Mill Farm Cottages.
- „ 7th.—109, Heath Road.
- „ 13th.—552, Bolton Road.
- „ 21st.—50, Morden Avenue.
- Mar. 3rd.—181, Old Road.
- „ 11th.—137, Liverpool Road.
- „ 14th.—15, Bolton Road.
- „ 25th.—137, Wigan Road.
- „ 30th.—23, Bryn Street.
- April 18th.—Barn Houses, Bryn Hall.
- „ 24th.—51, North Street.
- May 1st.—4, Haydock Street.
- June 21st.—104, Station Road.
- July 1st.—12, Mill Street.
- „ 11th.—Bryn Hall.
- „ 13th.—360, Downall Green Road.
- „ 15th.—2, Osborne Road.
- „ 21st.—1, Haydock Street.
- „ 29th.—209, Bolton Road.
- Aug. 22nd.—60, Gerard Street.
- Oct. 4th.—13, Pretoria Road.
- „ 19th.—66, Old Road.
- Nov. 8th.—131, Princess Road.*
- „ 8th.—131, Princess Road.*
- Dec. 17th.—Bryn Hall Cottages.
- „ 20th.—677, Bolton Road.
- „ 27th.—566, Bolton Road.*
- „ 28th.—566, Bolton Road.*
- „ 30th.—627, Bolton Road.

*Houses where more than one case occurred.

Measles.—After the epidemic of 1913, we had the usual cyclical abatement following—only two cases noted at end of year, and no fatality.

Whooping Cough was noticed through school reports, but was not of severe type; and there was one fatality.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—Both sickness and mortality compare favourably with that of previous year. The fatalities were 12 infants and two under two years as against 31 and four respectively. Unsuitability of food is a common cause of setting up intestinal disturbance.

The Lady Inspector's report herewith details circumstances also which tend to induce such illness, and I can emphasise her report generally. Diarrhoea may be considered a standard factor in its relation to the infantile death-rate and its incidence, usually marked in the third quarter. Referring to this in my July report, leaflets as to "Protective Measures" were again distributed. The Local Government Board in August issued a general circular in connection with the advent of Diarrhoea. As against 35 deaths in 1913 (31 under one year) we had only 14 last year (12 under one year). Beyond dietary, many other influences combine to effect sickness and mortality therefrom. During holiday times of the working classes, and especially in a hot summer, we find it increased.

Respiratory Diseases.—The fatalities were nine less than in previous year and 19 less than in 1913, and the infantile proportion was very materially less.

Pulmonary Phthisis contributed 10 deaths against 15 and 18 respectively for previous two years. Rate equal to 0·44, which is favourable being 0·23 less than for the mean for past 13 years. All other forms of non-pulmonary caused 12 deaths, of which 10 were under five years of age.

Erysipelas was notified 15 times, but no fatality. It is notified much less than in past years, and the cleaner and sweeter the houses and surroundings are kept the less we should expect.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases notified—both fatal ones. This class is specially referred to Preston immediately on receipt of information; as also is *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*, from which County Centre the cases receive attention and full enquiry by midwives inspection.

G.—PREVENTION OF MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY.

In this association I have nothing to mention further than inviting your attention to the Health Visitor's report which expresses a general impression of my own views, from personal observations. Especially would I refer to the three paragraphs relating to parents' indifference to illnesses of children, to late hours and exposure of infants in arms and children of tender years, taken to the last "show" at nights in all weathers.

In connection with the Notification of Births Act, we had Dr. Janet Claypon (one of the Government Medical Inspectors) down early in May to enquire into the working of the Act here. She interviewed your Lady Health Visitor and myself, and expressed herself satisfied, and suggesting occasional visiting later on as to a child's upbringing.

I congratulate Miss Haworth in her strict attention to duty; her position is one of great delicacy and demanding an instinctive tact in its working. When the Act was first put in practice resentments were fairly frequent, but it is now only an occasional matter.

HEALTH VISITOR'S REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD, February, 1915.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

In connection with the Notification of Births Act, all the births were visited within the specified time during the year 1914. Revisiting being carried out in order to follow up the cases.

Some of the babies have been delicate and difficult to rear; an important point, usually much neglected, is that parents do not seek the advice of their doctor early enough. In the course of the "following up" of cases this is emphasised, and where possible the mothers helped to carry out the instructions of their medical adviser.

There are more opportunities for carelessness in bottle-feeding than is the case with the breast-fed babies. In bottle-feeding the milk is not always put into a bottle which is perfectly clean ; and even when the infant is breast-fed there is at times much lack of management. The most frequent errors of management that I have met with, are over-feeding and too frequent feeding.

Condensed milks, and patent foods of all kinds, are often used for prolonged periods of time, and many of the results are bad.

The long-tube bottle is still found in use, though many mothers are adopting the boat-shaped bottle.

It is very difficult to break off the use of the "babies comforter" if once the child is allowed to have recourse to this pernicious invention.

The right way of washing, dressing, and handling the baby is more successfully carried out ; but there is still a strong prejudice in favour of washing the babies piecemeal and covering up one part before washing another.

Although the value of woollen underclothing is much better understood, many mothers do not believe that the baby can be kept warm without heavy clothing—and as a consequence, too much warmth.

Home-made soothing syrups are sometimes given to correct errors of diet ; and much time seems to be spent in trying to mend ills rather than to prevent them.

The home conditions of some of the infants are not always such as will tend to make the baby comfortable ; proper and clean food is not always prepared, and the child is not prevented from crawling about on dirty floors and putting dirty objects into the mouth.

A considerable number of babies have been systematically weighed ; irregularities in the rate of increase was frequently found to be due to a defective method of feeding.

Investigations have been made into the deaths of all children who have died during the first year of life ; of these 28 died before the first visit was paid. Twenty-two infants were entirely breast-fed, and 23 were receiving a mixed diet.

Of the special visits paid, many of these were by the request of Dr. Hannah (the Medical Officer of Health), and some were to cases when the medical attendant required the baby weighing, etc.

Some of the midwives have also drawn my attention to matters requiring a visit from time to time.

Visits to sick school-children were carried out under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, as to the general safeguarding of the child's welfare.

Many of the parents do not consider the occasion of an infectious illness, however mild, as a misfortune, but have the fixed belief that Measles and other illnesses are inevitable in childhood.

Many of the children are kept up much too late at night, and often the quite young babies are taken to crowded places of amusement ; the result is frequently shown in bad colds and an increase of chest complaints.

A want of cleanliness still prevails in some homes ; and habits of personal cleanliness seem to be regarded as a form of tyranny.

In connection with visits paid, the following defects have been reported to the Inspector of Nuisances :—Overcrowding, defective eaves spouting causing dampness, defective paving round surface gullies, dilapidated living-room floors, broken plaster on walls, dilapidation of slopstones, slopstone pipes too short, absence of ashpit doors, absence of window cords, etc.

Leaflets, dealing with infectious illnesses and with the feeding and care of infants, have been distributed and carefully explained.

Numerous visits have been made by mothers to the office *re* advice, etc. ; these received attention.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE, ETC., IN 1914.

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Notification of Births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1891 |
| Infant Mortality Investigations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| Inspection of Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |
| ,, Outworkers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Miscellaneous Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 168 |
| Visits to School Cases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 578 |
| Interviews | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 82 |

H.—VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The different rates are calculated as usual on the population as estimated to the middle of the year. The deaths actually registered as occurring in the township were 275. Three "outward" transfers and 27 "inward" transfers leave us a gross total of 299, which is 66 less than the previous year.

The *General Death-rate*, calculated upon a population of 22,687 corrected by factor 1.0937, is 14.40, or 3.5 per 1,000 less than that of 1913.

The *Zymotic-rate*, excluding Diarrhoea, is 0.57 as against 2.46, and including Diarrhoea is 1.18 as against 4.03. The deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis, classified as Zymotic cases, exceeded the total deaths from other forms by one, and it will be remembered that this rate in 1913 was due to an epidemic of Measles. The average rate for five years (1909 to 1913) was 2.65.

Birth-rate of 30, may be said to fluctuate very little during past few years; the average for quinquennium being 30.4.

The *Infantile Death-rate* fluctuates largely through invasion of children's diseases, chiefly Measles and Summer Diarrhoea. Last year it ran to 109 as against 178 year before and against an average of five years (1909-1913) of 140, which is favourable.

This infantile mortality showed a mean of 158 for the decade 1901-1910—and the mean was 169 for the decade before that; and in this connection I feel that the work of the Lady Inspector has had a beneficial influence in lowering the same.

My own observations lead me to emphasise the observation "talked to" made by the Lady Health Visitor, as to the care of infants as regards exposure to night air, etc.

| <i>Illegitimacy : Births.</i> | | <i>Deaths (infants).</i> | |
|-------------------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Central Ward | 6 | Central Ward..... | 2 |
| North Ward | 2 | | |
| South Ward | 1 | | |
| East Ward | 5 | East Ward | 2 |
| West Ward | 7 | West Ward | 2 |
| Internal transfer . | 1 | | |
| | — | | — |
| | 22 | | 6 |
| | — | | — |

Old Age.—There were 69 deaths over 65 years of age (33 males, 36 females); ages ranging up to 97 and giving an average of 76 years.

Violence.—Of the 13 deaths therefrom, six were in connection with mining, three to motor car accidents, one to horse kick, one to burns, one shooting, and one to a septic heel. There were three suicides (two hanging and a cut throat).

Births during the year:—

Males 359, females 333; total 692.

Deaths during the year:—

Males 161, females 138; total 299.

Net increase:—

Males 198, females 195; total 393.

Making the population on 1st January, 1915, 22,878.

Mortality at subjoined ages:—

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|
| Under 1 year | 76 | | |
| 1 year and under 2... | 16 | | |
| 2 .. , , 5... | 16 | Total under 5..... | 108 |
| 5 .. , , 15... | 12 | | |
| 15 .. , , 25... | 17 | | |
| 25 .. , , 45... | 34 | | |
| 45 .. , , 65... | 59 | | |
| 65 and upwards | 69 | ,, 5..... | 191 |
| | — | | |
| | 299 | | |
| | — | | |

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.
District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

| Year | Population estimated to middle of each year | Births | | | Rate | Number | Rate | Number | Rate per 1,000 Nett Births | NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT | | |
|---------|---|---------------------|------------------|------|------|--------|------|--------|----------------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| | | Un-corrected Number | Corrected Number | Nett | | | | | | Total Deaths registered in the District | Transferable Deaths | of Non-residents not registered in the District |
| 1909... | 21960 | 710 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1910... | 22394 | 706 | ... | 32·3 | 323 | 14·7 | ... | 16 | 94 | 131 | 339 | 15·4 |
| 1911... | 21636 | 605 | 607 | 28·0 | 275 | 12·2 | ... | 15 | 19 | 136 | 290 | 12·9 |
| 1912... | 21943 | 700 | ... | 31·9 | 302 | 13·4 | 2 | 25 | 90 | 148 | 325 | 15·0 |
| 1913... | 22295 | 686 | ... | 30·9 | 260 | 11·8 | 4 | 22 | 73 | 104 | 278 | 12·6 |
| | | | | | 344 | 15·42 | 6 | 27 | 121 | 175 | 365 | 17·9 |
| 1914... | 22687 | 690 | 692 | 30·4 | 275 | 13·25 | 3 | 27 | 76 | 108 | 299 | 14·40 |

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 6,251
 At Census, 1911—Total population at all ages 21,543
 Total families or separate occupiers 4,088

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, 1914.
District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

| Notifiable Diseases | Number of Cases Notified at Ages—Years | | | | | Total Cases Notified in each Locality | | | | | | | |
|--|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----|----|-----|
| | Under Age 11 | 11 to 20 | 20 to 29 | 29 to 45 | 45 to 65 | Upwards 65 and over | Central Ward | West Ward | South Ward | Total Cases Removed to Hospital | | | |
| Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) 32 | 1 | 9 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 1 | — | 13 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 19 | |
| Erysipelas.....15 | — | — | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | — | |
| Scarlet Fever150 | 1 | 40 | 101 | 7 | 1 | — | — | 31 | 13 | 22 | 35 | 49 | 119 |
| Enteric Fever20 | — | — | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | — | 9 | — | — | 8 | 3 | 18 |
| Puerperal Fever 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ophthal. Neon.....4 | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 3 | — | — |
| Pul. Tuberculosis ... 39 | — | 3 | 8 | 8 | 18 | 2 | — | 12 | 12 | 1 | 7 | 7 | — |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis 22 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 2 | — | — | — | 6 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 1 | — |
| Totals284 | 10 | 59 | 140 | 30 | 32 | 9 | 4 | 76 | 39 | 29 | 73 | 67 | 156 |

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—Long Lane Hospital. Edge Green Hospital (Small-pox).

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, DURING THE YEAR 1914.
District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

| Causes of Death. | All Ages | Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a) | | | | | | | | | | Total Deaths whether of 'Residents' or Non- Residents' in Institutions and 65 and over District (b). |
|--|----------|--|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| | | 29 | 31 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 17 | 34 | 57 | 67 | 2 | |
| All Causes—Certified | 291 | 73 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Uncertified | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| Scarlet Fever | 5 | — | — | — | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria and Croup | 3 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Influenza | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Pitthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) | 10 | — | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculous Meningitis | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Tuberulous Diseases | 7 | 4 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cancer (malignant disease) | 22 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 10 | 9 | — | — |
| Meningitis..... | 11 | 5 | 2 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Organic Heart Disease | 17 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | 6 | 8 | — | — |
| Bronchitis..... | 23 | 3 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | — | — |
| Pneumonia (all forms) | 28 | 8 | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 | 9 | 2 | — | — |

TABLE III.—*Continued.*

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH, DURING THE YEAR, 1914,
District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

| Causes of Death. | Nett Deaths at the abjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District (a) | | | | | | | | | | Deaths whether of 'Residents', or 'Non- Residents', in Institutions in the District (b). |
|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| | All Ages | Under 1 year | 2 years and under | 5 years and under | 10 years and under | 15 years and under | 20 years and under | 25 years and under | 35 years and under | 45 years and under | |
| Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs..... | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhoea and Enteritis | 14 | 12 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Alcoholism | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease | 7 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | 3 | — |
| Puerperal Fever | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition | 6 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | — | — |
| Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth | 34 | 34 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide | 13 | — | — | 2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| Suicide | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — |
| Other Defined Diseases | 65 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 30 | — | — |
| Diseases ill-defined or unknown | 8 | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| Totals | 299 | 76 | 16 | 16 | 12 | 17 | 34 | 59 | 69 | 9 | — |

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.
Deaths from Stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.
 District of ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD.

| | | | |
|--|-----|---|----|
| Nett Births in the year—Legitimate | 670 | Nett Deaths in the year—Legitimate Infants..... | 70 |
| Illegitimate | 22 | Illegitimate infants | 6 |

TABLE V.

SUPPLEMENTARY WARD TABLE.

| | <i>Central.</i> | <i>North.</i> | <i>South.</i> | <i>East.</i> | <i>West.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Approximate Population, 1st January, 1914... | 7,273 | 2,752 | 1,903 | 5,464 | 5,093 | 22,485 |
| Births to July 1st, 1914 | 92 | 52 | 35 | 101 | 67 | 347 |
| Deaths to July 1st, 1914..... | 43 | 20 | 8 | 41 | 33 | 145 ³³ |
| Nett Increase..... | 49 | 32 | 27 | 60 | 34 | 202 |
| Making Population to 1st July, 1914 | 7,322 | 2,784 | 1,930 | 5,524 | 5,127 | 22,687 |
| Births to December 31st, 1914 | 115 | 44 | 33 | 99 | 52 | 343 |
| Deaths to December 31st, 1914 | 40 | 17 | 16 | 51 | 22 | 146 |
| Nett Increase..... | 75 | 27 | 17 | 48 | 30 | 197 |
| Making Population, January 1st, 1915..... | 7,397 | 2,811 | 1,947 | 5,572 | 5,157 | 22,884 |

In conclusion.—Each year sees a large amount of sanitary work carried out, notwithstanding difficulties through subsidences. I would advise further attention to street making, paving, flagging, etc.; also to common yard areas, which as yet are without a satisfactory, impervious covering. To wit:—

Walter, Thomas, Burgess, Crookhall, Talbot and Thompson streets along Bolton Road; two or three streets off Bryn Road; "B" Court, Gerard Street, Dig Nook, Flora Street; common large yards in Warrington Road; approaches to properties—Ashton Heath, Peter Street, and Deebie Street.

The contrast between those which have been completed and those untouched is sufficiently striking as to improvement from a health point of view. Education of the people as far as possible to interior house cleaning and repair—and this in its earliest stages of required attention. Much of the bad conditions now seen, which makes property look even so much worse than it really is, may be certainly attributed to delays and neglect. Added to this, there is room (to my mind) for more stringent measures in relation to remedy of nuisances after issue of notices; this applies both to owners and occupiers.

Time flies, and facilities for getting "tipping places" get more and more difficult, hence the advisability of considering the provision of a refuse destructor. This is no small matter, and no small expense; but it is quite feasible to anticipate that between the time you are prepared to decide favourably the necessity will be very apparent.

On considering the recent special report from the County Health Officer, no doubt our attention will have to be given to many other matters.

In conclusion, I beg to thank my Council and all the Officials for their usual kindness to me, and to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NATHAN HANNAH,

*Medical Officer of Health,
District Medical Officer & Pub.-Vacc.,
Cert. Fact. Surgeon, etc.*

APPENDIX.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE WAR.

Staff.—The Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Gamble) was appointed a Musketry Instructor early in October ; and Mr. J. Whitter was appointed temporary Inspector during his absence.

At this time also, I had a letter from Dr. Newsholme (Local Government Board Inspector) as to Enteric Fever and co-operation with the Local Authority, with regard to the military occupation, etc. ; and replied giving him details of how things stood then. Later the Local Government Board wrote as to whether the Council could place beds at the disposal of the War Office for Enteric cases without unduly decreasing the accommodation for the civil population. This was left to the Hospital Chairman Dr. Winstanley, self, and the Sanitary Inspector. The result was that the Council reported the small ward of eight beds (practically the original fever hospital) would be available for the purpose of isolation.

No troops have as yet arrived at Garswood Park where a Military Camp is established.

TABLE C.

Summary of Medical Officer's Report for 1914.

Urban District of Ashton-in-Makerfield.

| | |
|--|--|
| Medical Officer of Health, Nathan Hannah—Salary as Medical Officer of Health, £125. | |
| Inspector of Nuisances, David Gamble—Salary as Inspector, £135. | |
| What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation ? For Small-pox, Wood and Corrugated-roofed. For other Infectious Diseases, Brick Built and Slated. | |
| Is it joint or otherwise ? Not joint. | |
| Number of Beds available for your District ? For Small-pox, 8. For other Infectious Diseases, 40. | |
| Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed from your District ? From what causes ? Enteric, 3. Scarlet, 4. Diphtheria, 2. | |
| How is Disinfection carried out ? Houses, 4122. Number of houses disinfected ? 194. Apparatus used for Clothing, Bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise) ? Goddard & Co. Where is Apparatus situated ? At Hospital. If Apparatus at a Hospital is available and used for the Disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, etc., of Patients not removed to the Hospital ? Yes. If not, please state how Disinfection of Clothing, etc., in these cases is carried out. Articles disinfected, 952. | |
| Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Chicken-pox, etc.) ? If so, what are they ? Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Poliomyelitis, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. | |
| Diseases specially prevalent ? Scarlet. Period ? Throughout year. | |
| Number of times School Closure adopted ? Nil. | |
| Number of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16) Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910 ? Nil. | |
| Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined : Blood, 2 ; Swabs, 1 ; Sputum, 4 ; others, 1. | |
| Arrangement (if any) made under the Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910 ? Free supply to Medical Practitioners for first treatment and prevention. | |

TABLE C.—*Continued.*

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|--|---|---|------|---|----|---|----|-----------------------------|----|--|----|--|----|------------------------------------|-----|
| "The Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909." | <p>Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations? Yes. Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is desirable? Yes. Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Article 2. If so, what officer? Yes. Sanitary Inspector. Have the necessary books, forms, etc., for keeping the required records been obtained? Yes. Action taken in 1914:—</p> <table> <tr><td>No. of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909?</td><td>462.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?</td><td>5.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders.</td><td>5.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of Closing Orders made?</td><td>0.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders?</td><td>2.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders?</td><td>1.</td></tr> <tr><td>No. of dwelling-houses demolished?</td><td>12.</td></tr> </table> <p>General character of defects found to exist? Dilapidation generally—internally and externally.</p> | No. of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909? | 462. | No. of dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation? | 5. | No. of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders. | 5. | No. of Closing Orders made? | 0. | No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders? | 2. | No. of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders? | 1. | No. of dwelling-houses demolished? | 12. |
| No. of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909? | 462. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation? | 5. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders. | 5. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of Closing Orders made? | 0. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders? | 2. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders? | 1. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No. of dwelling-houses demolished? | 12. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent? | Yes. Generally throughout the district. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| What steps are being taken to meet the deficiency? | Under consideration. Nothing as yet definitely done. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Number of New Houses built during 1914. | By and at the cost of the District Council? Nil. By private enterprise? Thirty-four certificates issued. Granted for occupation. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

TABLE C.—*Continued.*

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| Source of Water Supply ? What is its condition ? Possibilities of contamination ? Any insufficiency. and where ? | Rivington and Council's own Reservoirs. Good. Small. No. Possibilities in case of long drought (as explained in last year's report). |
| Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of District ? How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses) ? | On the whole, fair. By the Sanitary Authority. |
| How is the Refuse disposed of ? Has a Destructor been provided ? Sewage Disposal Works. Method of Treatment ? What is the character of the Drainage System ? Any developments during year ? Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system ? | On the " tipping " system. No. New Works opened a few weeks ago. Difficult to contend with through subsidences, etc. Only in the remotest parts of the Township. A system of drainage under such circumstances considered unnecessary. |
| Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, &c. ? | Flushing and testings made as required. |
| Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams ? | Nil. |
| Canal Boats : Number Inspected ? | Number of Infringements of Acts ? Nil. |

TABLE C.—*Continued.*

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| What is the condition of the Bakehouses ? | Good. | Has a Public Abattoir been provided ? | No. |
| ,, Slaughter-houses ? | Good. | | |
| ,, Lodging-houses ? | Nil. | Are they Registered ? | |
| What is the Sanitary Condition of the Schools ? | Good. | Under Medical Inspection from Preston. | |
| Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops— | | Yes. What is their condition ? | Usually in good order—clean. |
| Are they periodically inspected ? | | Yes. Are they enforced ? | Yes. |
| Have the Regulations been made under the Order of the L.G.B. ? | | 45. No. on Register ? | No. of inspections, during year ? One each. |
| Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each cow ? | | 4. No. on Register ? | 3 ? C.H.O. report. |
| No. of Cowkeepers ? | | Yes. | Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector empowered to consult Mr. Woods, Veterinary Surgeon, of Wigan. |
| No. of Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk (other than Cowkeepers) ? | | | |
| Any arrangements for Veterinary inspection of dairy cows ? | | | |
| Action taken (if any) as to Tuberculous milk ? | | | |
| Total amount of Food seized as unfit for Human Consumption ? | Nil. | | |
| No. of Carcasses and parts of Carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis ? | Nil. | | |
| No. of Legal Proceedings and result ? | Nil. | | |

TABLE C.—*Continued.*

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| Department of Inspector of Nuisances. | No. of Notices served ? 265. Nuisances remedied ? 632. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? Nil. |
| Closet accommodation of the District. | No. of Privy Middens ? Nil. Pail Closets ? 3,754. Fresh Water Closets ? 477. Waste Water Closets ? 25. No. of Privy Middens converted during 1914 ? To W.C.'s, Nil. No. of Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s ? Nil. Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion of either privies or pail closets, or both ? If so, how much ? No. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for <i>nem</i> property ? Water carriage as much as possible. |
| Smoke. | No. of Observations ? Nil. No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result ? Nil. What is the time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke per hour ? Nil. |
| Has the Authority adopted— | “ The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ” ? Yes. “ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 ” ? Yes. “ The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ” ? Yes. “ The Notification of Births Act, 1907 ” ? Yes. |
| Has a Health Visitor (whole, or part time) been appointed ? | Yes. Whole time. |
| Has any, and if so, what action been taken respecting Child Welfare Work ? | Nil. |
| Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1914. | Completion and starting of New Sewago Works. |
| Chief Sanitary requirements of district. | Streetage. Yard areas. Approaches to property. More stringency in regard to remedy of nuisances and farmyards. House conditions. Refuse destructor. |